Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ANKARA 02622 081010Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 AID-05 /063 W
----------090225Z 119773 /75-62
R 0808554Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7076

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 2622

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION ANKARA INFO ISTANBUL IZMIR 07 APRIL 77
REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION

QUOTE
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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, TU
SUBJECT: THE SOUTHEAST ON ELECTION EVE

1. OUR PRELIMINARY READING IN THIS DISTRICT SUGGESTS THAT THE JUSTICE PARTY MAY CHALK UP GAINS THROUGH: A) FURTHER COLLAPSE OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY; B) VOTER TRANSFER FROM THE REPUBLICAN PEOPLES PARTY'S OLDER "INONU" GENERATION; AND C) APPEAL TO INDEPENDENTS IN THE CENTER RECEPTIVE TO ITS CAMPAIGN THEMES.

2. AS CAMPAIGN THEMES, THE JP SEEMS LIKELY TO STRESS: 1) IMPROVEMENTS WROUGHT BY THE DEMIREL ADMINISTRATION ("YOU NEVER HAD IT SOO GOOD"), 2) THE "POOR" DOMESTIC RECORD OF THE LAST RPP ADMINISTRATION; AND 3) THE "INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST" (AND BY IMPLICATION COMMUNIST) INFILTRATION OF THE RPP WHICH MAY BE CITED AS A CATALYZING FACTOR IN STUDENT VIOLENCE. "NATIONALIST (MILLIYETCI) DEMIREL WILL BE JUXTAPOSED TO "POPULIST (HALKCI) ECEVIT."
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PAGE 02 ANKARA 02622 081010Z

3. WHILE ECEVIT CLEARLY REMAINS A HIGHLY POPULAR FIGURE AND DEMIREL MUST OVERCOME THE STIGMA OF BEING AN "OLD" POLITICAL, THE LATTER ALSO IMPRESSES US AS POSSESSING A REAL KNACK FOR PUTTING HIS EXPERIENCE AND RECORD ACROSS TO THE PEOPLE IN SIMPLE, POSITIVE TERMS. ECEVIT, ON THE OTHER HAND,

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

TENDS TO BE INTELLECTUAL AND CONSTANTLY CAST IN THE ROLE OF
OPPOSITIONIST.

4. REGARDING THE RPP, WHILE THE CONVENTIONAL WISDOM HERE
ANTICIPATES CONTINUATION OF THE UPWARD TREND THAT ITS VOTE
HAS ENJOYED IN RECENT ELECTIONS, WE QUESTION THE FLAT CON-
TENTION, AS VOICED BY MY ITALIAN (HONORARY) COLLEAGUE IN
ISKENDERUN: "TURKEY WILL GO LEFT IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS."
URBANIZATION, WHICH DOES SEEM TO FAVOR THE RPP, DOES NOT SEEM
TO BE MOVING ALL THAT FAST. MUCH OF TURKEY REMAINS VILLAGE
OR VILLAGE CONNECTED.

5. FSO AUSTERN'S RECENT ANALYSIS COMPARING VOTING PATTERNS
OF OUR PROVINCES WITH THEIR OCCUPATIONAL STRUCTURE FURTHER
INDICATES THAT THE CORRELATION BETWEEN THE LEVEL OF URBANI-
ZATION AND THE RPP VOTE IS NOT UNIFORMLY STRONG. FOR EXAMPLE,
THE STRONGEST RPP PROVINCE IN OUR DISTRICT IS MALATYA,
THE BIRTH PLACE OF ISMET INONU. YET MALATYA REMAINS SMALL TOWN
AND RURAL. RPP STRENGTH THERE (WHICH MAY WANE IN THIS ELECTION)
HAS DERIVED SUBSTANTIALLY FROM INONU.

6. IN OTHER PROVINCES, LOCAL PERSONALITIES ALSO SEEM TO BE
THE IMPORTANT FACTOR. SUCH PERSONALITIES COULD MOVE TO THE
RIGHT TO THE EXTENT THAT THEY PERCEIVE THE RPP HEADING OFF
INTO UNCHARTED "INTERNATIONALIST" WATERS. MIDDLE OF THE ROAD
CITIZENS, ANGRY AT STUDENT VIOLENCE AND GENERAL INSECURITY,
MIGHT ALSO FEEL THEMSELVES ADDRESSED BY THE JP CAMPAIGN. WHILE MUCH
OF THE
YOUTH OF TURKEY SEEMS STRONGLY PRO RPP, MIDDLE AGED AND OLDER
VOTERS MIGHT GO THE OPPOSITE WAY.
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PAGE 03 ANKARA 02622 081010Z

7. REGARDING THESE SMALLER PARTIES, THE NATIONAL SALVATION
PARTY SEEMS TO BE THE MAJOR QUESTION MARK. A FEW, SUCH AS
LOCAL INDUSTRIALIST NURI SABUNCU (WHO HAS RECENTLY CULTIVATED
SECRET TIES WITH ERBAKAN), CLAIM THAT THE NSP WILL DO EXTREMELY
WELL PERHAPS 75-80 SEATS NATIONALLY. THIS FORECAST SEEMS
QUESTIONABLE, ESPECIALLY NOW THAT THE BIG PARTIES HAVE DEFLATED
ERBAKAN'S CLAIM TO BE THE "KEY" BY PUSHING THROUGH EARLY
ELECTIONS. THUS WE LEAN TOWARD THE MAJORITY VIEW HERE
WHICH EXPECTS THE NSP TO LOSE VOTES EXCEPT WHERE LOCAL PER-
SONALITY FACTORS ARE AT WORK. FOR EXAMPLE, MINISTER FEHIM ADAK
HAS DONE A LOT FOR HIS HOME PROVINCE OF MARDIN AND THE NSP
REPORTEDLY HAS REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS OF PICKING UP AN ADDITIONAL
SEAT THERE. SIMILARLY, ERBAKAN'S PROVINCIAL PRESIDENT IN
DIYARBAKIR IS PARTICULARLY POPULAR NOW IN HIS CAPACITY HAS
PRESIDENT OF DIYARBAKIR'S OSCCER TEAM WHICH IS IN THE PROCESS
OF PULLING OFF THE FANTASTIC FEAT OF MOVING INTO TURKEY'S FIRST
DIVISION.

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

8. THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND THE REPUBLICAN RELIANCE PARTY BOTH APPEAR AS PROBABLY LOSERS (PERHAPS PERMANENT ONES). NOT SO WITH THE NATIONAL ACTION PARTY WHOM EVERYONE HERE EXPECTS TO INCREASE ITS PERCENTAGE SUBSTANTIALLY, PARTLY BECAUSE OF ITS EFFECTIVE RECRUITING OF YOUTH. BUT THE NAP'S 1973 BASE IS SO LOW THAT EVEN SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES WILL NOT MEAN SEATS IN SOME PROVINCES. SIGNED VON DEN STEINEN UNQUOTE MACOMBER

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 970829
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TAGS: PINT, TU, PINT
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